UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

DATE: November 22, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities Ending on November 17, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Completion, LaBour Pump Site, Elkart, Indiana

On October 16, 2006, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs), Fred Micke and Theresa Holz initiated a time-critical removal action at the LaBour Pump Site located in Elkhart, Indiana. Labour Pump is a six acre former manufacturing facility located in a mixed residential and industrial manufacturing area. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requested assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in September 2005, after responding to a small spill at the vacant site. IDEM noted two large primary buildings and a couple of small storage structures at the site. IDEM identified the presence of thirty-one drums of various materials, approximately 100 pails/buckets, a large open cistern, and several shallow trenches filled with oil. The U.S. EPA site removal assessment identified the presence ignitable materials, reactive sulfide, and methyl-ethyl ketone in several samples. Poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were also detected near an electric pole. The removal work included the removal of wastes from vats, pits, 55-gallon drums and small containers, and the excavation of contaminated soil. The facilities floors were also cleaned of waste spillage. Approximately, 2,800 gallons of

liquid and 110 tons of PCB-contaminated soil were removed. The removal action was completed on November 8, 2006.

Contacts: Fred Micke (312-886-5123)
Theresa Holz (312-886-6845)

Removal Action Complete - Phase 2, Little Scioto River Site, Marion, Marion County, Ohio

On November 6, 2006, the U.S. EPA demobilized from the Little Scioto River Site, Marion, Marion County, Ohio. This action completes the second phase of this cleanup. This removal action at The Little Scioto River involved cleanup of sediment that was grossly contaminated with coal tar creosote. This 4.5 mile stretch of the river is one of five rivers in the State of Ohio that has a "no human contact" advisory associated with it. This year, EPA's efforts included the removal and disposal of over 32,000 tons of sediment and 18,000 gallons of contaminated water. During this phase, EPA cleaned up approximately 2,600 linear feet of the river.

The initial cleanup occurred in 2001, authorized under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA). During that phase, 1/2-mile of North Rockswale Ditch and 3/4-mile of the Little Scioto River were cleaned up. Approximately 3.25 miles of the Little Scioto River still required cleanup and will cost approximately $24 million to complete. At this point, future funding is uncertain. Ohio EPA is in the process of assessing the river for potential inclusion on the National Priorities List.

Contacts: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)
Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

Remedial Action Start, Ottawa Radiation Areas, Ottawa, Illinois

On November 9, 2006, U.S. EPA started cleanup activities at the Ottawa Radiation Areas, NPL-1, 9, 11 and Illinois Power. Radium-contaminated soil will be excavated at a cost of $2 million. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is assisting by performing laboratory and health physicists' services.

The contamination at these sites is the result of activities associated with two radium dial painting companies: the Radium Dial Company, which operated in Ottawa from 1920 through 1932, and Luminous Processes, Inc. (LPI), which operated in Ottawa from 1932 through 1978. The source of contamination is radium sulfate paint that Radium Dial and LPI used in their dial painting

operations. During the course of operations at these companies, equipment, materials, buildings, and surrounding work areas became contaminated with radium-226, the major isotope of radium sulfate. Through the years, contaminated operational waste from both companies was used as fill material at various landfills and low-laying areas throughout Ottawa. Debris from the demolition of the Radium Dial facility, which occurred in 1968, was probably buried at one or more of the landfills in the area. The LPI building was demolished in 1985, but the demolition was conducted by IEMA (formerly known as the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety). Contaminated debris from this demolition was disposed of at a licensed radioactive disposal facility.

The Records of Decision were issued on September 8, 2000, for NPL 1, 4, 8, 9, and Illinois Power and September 24, 2003, for NPL-11 and the Frontage Property to NPL-8. Radium-226 contaminated soil will be excavated and dispose of at a licensed radioactive material facility.

Contact: Denise Boone (312-886-6217)

Removal Start, Minton Enterprises Site, Highland, Illinois

On October 23, 2006, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs), Kevin Turner and Jaime Brown initiated a time-critical removal action at the Minton Enterprises Site located in Highland, Illinois. Minton Enterprises is a two acre site, a former plating facility located in a mixed residential and industrial manufacturing area. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) requested assistance from U.S. EPA in March 2006, after finding large amounts of plating chemicals and waste from plating operations stored unsafely at the facility. Illinois EPA noted one large primary building and a smaller storage shed at the site. The U.S. EPA site removal assessment identified the presence of a large quantity and variety of 55-gallon drums of plating wastes and assorted-sized containers of miscellaneous hazardous materials in various areas throughout the site. The removal work to date included scraping of solid material from floors and placement into drums, sampling and hazardous categorization (HAZCAT) of the three vats, and 245 drums on site. Also one 330-gallon poly tote of HCl was picked up by the distributor. The Removal process includes gathering 55-gallon drums located in the outside storage building and storing them in the main plating building. The drums are being marked and logged as they are identified and segregated into non-hazardous regulated material, unknown, flammable, household hazardous waste, alkaline,

oxidizers, and acids. Other activities include general clearing of debris from the main building and the outside building.

Contacts: Kevin Turner (618-997-00115)
Jaime Brown (312-886-2256)

Five-Year Review Inspection Completed, Albion-Sheridan Landfill Site, Albion, Michigan

A Five-Year Review inspection was completed on November 13, 2006, for the Albion-Sheridan Landfill Superfund Site in Albion, Michigan. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) project manager and the U.S. EPA Region 5 remedial project manager were present to perform the inspection. This is the second five-year review for the Albion-Sheridan Site, and the report is scheduled to be completed in 2007.

Remedial Action (RA) requirements under the 1995 Record of Decision and the 1999 RA Consent Decree at the Albion-Sheridan Site include: removal of hazardous and liquid waste drums from the Site; construction of a solid waste landfill cover including a flexible membrane liner and gas collection system; installation of a groundwater monitoring program incorporating natural attenuation for arsenic; and institutional controls.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

British Petroleum, Cleveland Terminal Exercise

On November 1, 2006, Sheila Calovich and Joe Fredle (ERB 1) participated in an oil spill response organization (OSRO) exercise at the British Petroleum Cleveland, Ohio, terminal. The BP Cleveland terminal participated in a government-initiated unannounced drill in April of 2006. During that drill, it took over 2 hours to deploy containment boom on the Cuyahoga River. U.S. EPA Region 5 exercise evaluators asked BP to exercise with the OSRO again to decrease equipment deployment time. Equipment deployment was quicker and more organized during this exercise.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

OSC/Support Personnel Radiation/Nuclear Response Course, Dallas, Texas

On November 14 through 16, Gene Jablonowski (Health Physicist) participated as one of the trainers for the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)/Support Personnel Radiation/Nuclear Response Course held in Dallas, Texas. This was a comprehensive course covering the threat of a dirty bomb or nuclear attack, and how the U.S. EPA OSC/Support Personnel would respond. The course included hands-on training with personal protective equipment (PPE), sampling and monitoring equipment, set-up and walk through of a responder decontamination line, operation of various types of radiation monitoring and sampling equipment, how to determine contaminated areas and work zones. Gene's participation included presentations on radioactive waste types, transportation regulations, and disposal sites and practices, as well as providing radioactive sources, equipment and assistance with exercises. This course will be offered again in the Seattle area in July 2007.

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